

# Iowa Collaboration for Youth Development Council

## Minutes of Electronic Meeting

June 24, 2020

### **Present:**

Steve Michael, Chair, Department of Human Rights, for San Wong  
Kevin Drahos, Chair, State of Iowa Youth Advisory Council  
Julie Hibben, Iowa Department of Public Health  
Wendy Greenman, Iowa Workforce Development  
Jay Pennington, Iowa Department of Education  
Mary Sheka, Iowa Economic Development  
Dale Woolery, Office of Drug Control Policy

### **Others Present:**

Dave Kuker, CJJP  
Reeva Neighbors, CJJP/AmeriCorps, Coordinator, State of Iowa Youth Advisory Council  
Kayla Powell, CJJP, NYTD/Youth Development Coordinator  
Julie Rinker, CJJP  
Susan Walkup, Iowa Department of Education  
Claire Yocom, CJJP/AmeriCorps, Coordinator, Iowa Youth Congress

## **I. Introductions and Announcements**

### **a. COVID-19 Lessons Learned**

Steve Michael called the meeting to order at 2:02 p.m. A quorum was present. Introductions were made. Due to COVID-19 and social distancing concerns, the meeting was held electronically.

## **II. Approval of the Minutes from December 11, 2019 ICYD meeting**

**Kevin Drahos moved to approve the minutes from the December meeting, seconded by Mary Sheka. The motion was unanimously approved.**

## **III. Youth Development Coordinator - Kayla Powell**

- a. Youth Engagement**
- b. Youth-Adult Partnerships**
- c. Resources for other agencies**

Michael introduced Kayla Powell, NYTD Coordinator and Youth Development Coordinator. Powell will serve as ICYD Chair in the future. He asked members to consider areas of focus.

Powell provided information on her previous work experience in Ottumwa with the YMCA, youth development programs, and the high school graduate program. She holds a degree in occupational therapy and works with several national foundations including the Annie E. Casey Foundation and provides NYTD program oversight to other states. She looks forward to working with the Iowa Youth Congress (IYC) and State of Iowa Youth Advisory Council (SIYAC).



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#### **IV. Youth Work Groups – Racial Justice and COVID-19**

##### **a. Forum for Youth Investment**

Michael reported on recent meetings with the Forum for Youth Investment. CJJP is in the final stages of formalizing a youth development curriculum and there is an opportunity to work with consultants on “consensus building”. He would like to form two groups that focus on racial justice and COVID-19. The groups would be comprised of ICYD members and IYC/SIYAC youth. Some funding is available from the Forum for Youth Investment. The goal is for ICYD to provide a stronger voice as Iowa’s “children’s cabinet”.

Powell reviewed recommendations from “The Promise of Adolescence—Realizing Opportunity for All Youth”, a 2019 report by the National Academies of Science, Engineering, and Medicine. The recommendations focus on four areas related to adolescents—education, health, child welfare, and juvenile justice—and emphasizes the importance of youth engagement to solve problems, develop partnerships, and re-imagine/redesign systems to further support for adolescents.

“Adolescence” is defined as the period between child- and adulthood, beginning with the onset of puberty to the mid-20’s, and is divided into four age groups:

- Early Adolescence (10-12)
- Middle Adolescence (13-15)
- Late Adolescence (16-18)
- Young Adulthood (19-25)

The 411-page report provides multiple recommendations for capitalizing on opportunities to address inequities that undermine the well-being of many adolescents. Powell referenced a two-page summary provided in the meeting packet.

Michael would like to utilize the report to support current activities and expand efforts.

Susan Walkup noted several companion documents from the American Bar Association and the federal Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention that would coordinate well with the recommendations and the variety of resources listed in the report. She offered to share the information with Powell.

Dave Kuker asked Powell if there were specific recommendations that she thinks would effect policy change. Powell responded that she would be interested in hearing from IYC/SIYAC youth for insight to reduce racial disparities in the education system.

Michael challenged this group to embrace some of the recommendations. While Iowa is making strides in some areas, the overall recommendations would promote current efforts and assist in implementing changes in other areas.

## **V. State of Iowa Youth Advisory Council (SIYAC) Update**

Drahos, SIYAC Chair, provided an update since last December. SIYAC developed and advocated for five position statements this year. Meetings were held with state legislators during DHR's "Day on the Hill" on February 27.

- Felon voting rights—While the legislation did not pass, the governor has promised an executive order.
- (Banning) Gay Conversion Therapy—The legislation had movement in the House, but the Senate did not advance it.
- Tax on e-cigarettes/vaping products—While this legislation was not taken up by legislators, Iowa will raise the minimum age to 21 to align with federal guidelines.
- Complementary Feminine Hygiene Products provided by schools—This legislation was attached to another bill that did not pass.
- Rural Broadband Access—There was an increase in funding and was signed by the governor.

Since the beginning of the pandemic, several meetings have been held via conference call. The 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter meeting will be held this Friday, June 26. Elections will be held, however, SIYAC is unable to complete the group service project due to social distancing.

Drahos expressed his appreciation to Neighbors during his term as Chair and welcomed Powell's oversight of youth activities. He noted various SIYAC alumni working in prestigious positions across state and federal governmental agencies. He thanked ICYD members and CJJP staff for their support.

Michael thanked Drahos for his leadership over the past two years, serving as Chair and Vice Chair. SIYAC has moved forward a number of issues and has provided a valuable youth voice; he credited Neighbors for her oversight. He asked that SIYAC members provide contact information in the event that additional information is needed regarding legislation or experiences.

## **VI. Youth Offender Reentry Update**

Kuker reviewed information compiled from juvenile court officials and group care facilities on the affects of the COVID-19 pandemic on the juvenile reentry effort and the juvenile justice system. Although originally requested by national consultants, the information provides a perspective on field operations.

Kuker reviewed the findings. While past practice has placed emphasis on face-to-face contact, juvenile court officials and facilities are now utilizing technology to maintain contact with families, youth, and services. More time is being spent on case planning and creative ways to supplement support. Challenges include access to educational resources, conducting YTDMs, and employment/job training. He noted gains in engaging parents.

The overall goal continues to be improving the lives and futures of these teens.



## **VII. Other Business – Agency Updates**

There were no agency updates.

Kuker announced his retirement in December. He thanked members for their efforts in improving the lives of young Iowans.

## **VIII. Adjourn – Next meeting – Wednesday, September 23<sup>rd</sup> or 30<sup>th</sup>, 2020, 2:00 – 4:00pm.**

Michael asked members on their preference for the September meeting date. It was decided to hold the meeting on September 23. More information will be provided closer to the meeting date.

Michael thanked members for their attendance. The meeting adjourned at 3:32 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Julie Rinker  
Administrative Secretary  
Div. of Criminal & Juvenile Justice Planning  
Iowa Department of Human Rights